

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 08911 141528Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /062 W  
-----022820 141537Z /20

O 141500Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9041  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE  
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE  
CINCEUR IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 8911

CINCPAC & CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV PK  
SUBJ: GENERAL ZIA UL-HAQ TO BECOME PRESIDENT 16 SEPTEMBER

1. RADIO PAKISTAN ANNOUNCED EARLY EVENING 14 SEPTEMBER  
THAT PRESIDENT FAZAL ELAHI CHAUDHRY WILL STEP DOWN FROM OFFICE  
AT MIDDAY ON SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER. HE WILL BE SUCCEDED  
AS PRESIDENT BY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA)  
GENERAL MOHAMMAD ZIA UL-HAQ, WHO WILL BE SWORN INTO OFFICE BY  
BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE. ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO INDICATED GEN. ZIA  
WILL RETAIN ALL OF HIS PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES AS HE  
ASSUMES THE PRESIDENCY, MEANING THAT HE WILL CONTINUE AS  
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT/CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (DE FACTO  
PRIME MINISTER), AS CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF, AND AS FOREIGN MINISTER,  
INTER ALIA.

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2. COMMENT: WE WILL COMMENT FURTHER ON REFLECTION AND AS  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. DEPARTMENT SHOULD  
RECALL, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT CHAUDHRY'S OFFICIAL TERM OF  
OFFICE CAME TO AN END ON 14 AUGUST, 1978, THAT THERE HAD BEEN  
CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION AT THAT TIME, AND BEFORE, ABOUT HIS  
REPORTED DESIRE TO STEP DOWN, AND THAT GENERAL ZIA INDICATED,  
WHEN ASKED, THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE STAYING ON. THERE HAS

ALSO BEEN PERSISTENT SPECULATION -- FREQUENTLY DENIED  
BY GENERAL ZIA -- THAT ZIA WOULD ELECT TO STEP UP TO THE  
PRESIDENCY AT THE CONCLUSION OF CHAUDHRY'S TERM OR IF  
CHAUDHRY COULD NOT BE PERSUADED TO STAY ON UNTIL ELECTIONS  
ARE HELD.  
CONSTABLE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, CABINET, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ISLAMA08911  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780374-0171  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ISLAMABAD  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 68  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** cb65b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1436206  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GENERAL ZIA UL-HAQ TO BECOME PRESIDENT 16 SEPTEMBER  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PK, (ZIA UL-HAQ, MOHAMMAD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/cb65b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014